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1. (Thrice Amended) An optical information recording medium comprising information tracks extending in a circumferential direction and spaced from each other in a radial direction by lands, wherein:

a first information track and a second information track are radially adjacent but are radially spaced from each other by a single land;

a first phase pit encoding information for the first information track is connected to the second information track and extends radially therefrom toward, but does not reach, the first information track;

said first phase pit and said first information track being separated radially by a partition wall;

said first phase pit and said first information track having equal depths; and

said first phase pit being detected by using a differential signal.

8. (Thrice Amended) An optical information recording medium comprising:

circumferentially extending grooves forming information tracks and phase pits forming circumferentially extending preformat tracks;

a partition wall radially separating adjacent information tracks;

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wherein said grooves and phase pits are equally deep,
phase pits encoding preformat information for a given
information track are radially spaced from the groove
forming the given information track by a partition wall,
and
a phase pit is detected by using a differential signal.

13. (Twice Amended) An optical information recording medium
comprising:

circumferentially extending grooves forming information
recording tracks, and phase pits encoding preformat
information for said tracks;

wherein phase pits encoding preformat information for a given
track are radially spaced from that track and separated
therefrom by a partition wall and are connected to an
adjacent track,

said grooves and phase pits are equally deep, and
a phase pit is detected by using a differential signal.

18. (Twice Amended) A method of mastering an optical information
recording medium comprising information tracks extending in a
circumferential direction and spaced from each other in a radial
direction by lands, comprising:

exposing a master to a first exposing light beam for forming a
first information track and a second information track

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that are radially adjacent but are radially spaced from each other by a single land;

exposing said master to a second exposing light beam for forming a first phase pit encoding information for the first information track, said first phase pit being connected to the second information track and extending radially therefrom toward, but not reaching, the first information track, said first phase pit and said first information track being separated radially by a partition wall, and said first phase pit and said first information track having equal depths;

wherein, when a spot diameter of said first exposing light beam is BD1, a spot diameter of said second exposing light beam is BD2, a distance between said first and second exposing light beams is L, and the width of said partition wall in the radial direction is Δ , the values of BD1, BD2, L, and Δ satisfy the relationship:

$$\Delta = L - [(BD1/2) + (BD2/2)]; \text{ and}$$

wherein said first phase pit is detected by using a differential signal.

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